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13 July 1948

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Disposition of Nurnberg Records

To : Brig. General Telford Taylor
Chief of Counsel for War Crimes

1. In accordance with your instructions arrangements have been made in Washington for the disposal of all Nurnberg trial records.

2. On 10 June 1948 a conference was held in the Pentagon to consider this subject. Those present were: Col. Young, Chief of the War Crimes Branch, CAD, Mr. O. D. McCool, Chief, Records Management Section, Adjutant General's Office, Mr. Sherrod East, Acting Chief Departmental Records Branch, AGO (recently with National Archives and speaking for them), Mr. Olbeter, Chief OCC Section WCB, CAD, and the undersigned. Mr. Walter B. Greenwood, Document Expeditor of the Library of Congress was later informed and concurred in considerations.

3. As a result of this conference, the following recommendations were made concerning the five major categories of files in Nurnberg:

A. The Official Court Archives in the Secretary General's Office

Content: 165 foot lockers and 45 legal size filing cabinets. This includes the official court transcripts in English and German, the document books in English and German, Judgments, Tribunals records, Clemency petitions, etc.

Recommendations: That the official trial record which is sent to the Military Governor for review be maintained in the custody of the Legal Division, OMGUS so that it may be available there for all future questions of clemency. The official archives should be maintained in Nurnberg until they can be indexed and fully prepared for permanent storage. Efforts should be made to complete this within 30 days after completion of the trials. At that time these records should be shipped to:

Transportation Officer
Washington Q.M. Depot
ATTN: Chief, Departmental Records Branch
Adjutant General's Office
Washington, D. C.

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Packing and shipping procedure as outlined in TM 12-259 Sec. 3 should be followed. These files will be available in Washington to all governmental or private agencies having a legitimate interest in them. It is anticipated that regular reference will be made to them by whatever persons are preparing the publication of the Nurnberg proceedings. Eventually these files will be sent by the AGO to the National Archives as the ultimate repository for all public records.

B. Captured Documents

Content: About 43,000 originals or photostats of German documents which were used for the preparation of the trials or copies of those documents which were offered in evidence. Weight about 8 tons.

Recommendation: That 1 copy of each of these documents be sent to the AGO as indicated above. If a Staff Evidence Analysis (SEA) is available, or a mimeographed copy or translation, these should accompany the document.

C. Materials Relating to Captured Documents

Content: This consists of photostats of documents, mimeographed copies, translations and SEA's. Rough estimate about 100 foot lockers.

Recommendation: After one copy of the SEA or translation has been attached to the document all other copies may be distributed to any agencies which have expressed a desire to have them.

Distribution to European agencies may be made directly from Nurnberg. Distribution to American agencies may be made by the Library of Congress, where all surplus copies which may be of public interest should be sent.

Address: Exchange and Gift Division
Library of Congress, 2nd Floor Annex
Washington, D. C.
ATTN: Mr. Greenwood

Mr. Coffin, Chief of the Exchange and Gift Division will communicate with Mr. Lacy, Assistant Director for Acquisitions and Mr. Greenwood, Document Expeditor of the Library of Congress and will then notify the OCCWC concerning detailed shipping instructions. The OCCWC should inform him in greater detail concerning the amount and type of material to be shipped and recommended addressees.

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D. Mimeographed Material of the Prosecution and Defense

Content: About 130 tons of mimeographed trial transcripts, document books, opening and closing statements, pleas, judgments, etc., in numerous though irregular copies in German and English.

Recommendation: That German copies as available be distributed to European agencies directly from Nurnberg. English copies as available may be sent to the Library of Congress for distribution to American agencies.

E. Records of the International Military Tribunal

Content: About 20 tons of prosecution and defense records used in the International Military Tribunal Trial.

Recommendation: That these records also be sent to the AGO as indicated above. There has been considerable discussion concerning the possible shipment of these files to the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, however, inasmuch as the Permanent Court has indicated a great reluctance to accept them no further consideration need be given to this possibility. The National Archives have already received copies of much of this material and they would suffer no loss in not having the additional records immediately available to them.

Note: The AGO considers all film and sound tracks as "records" which they will accept. The AGO should be notified in advance of the number of linear feet of files, and clearance should be obtained from them prior to shipment.

4. The recommendations are herewith submitted to the Disposition of Records Committee for their consideration, obtaining of OMCUS clearance, and final action.

Benjamin B. Ferencz
Executive Counsel

Copies to:

Disposition of Records Committee

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LIBRARY BRANCH, EVIDENCE DIVISION OCCWC

1. The holdings of the Library Branch are as follows:

a. Books, periodicals, newspapers	Approximately 8,000
b. Interrogations Transcripts	20 cabinets
c. Biographical dossiers	6 "
d. Army Publications	8 "
e. Miscellaneous	5 "

2. When the Library Branch is dissolved, approximately six thousand of the books will be returned to the agencies from whom they were originally borrowed.

3. The interrogations transcripts are those of persons involved in the trials. They include some old SHAEF, USFET, and EUCOM interrogations.

4. The biographical dossiers are of those persons involved in the trials.

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